

Federal Statutory Law United States Code

There are three web sites that offer free access to searchable databases of the United States Code (U.S.C.): (1) the Government Printing Office's website, **GPO Access** (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>); (2) Cornell Law School's **LII** site (<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode> and the **House of Representatives** site (<http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm>). Even though all use the same Code (prepared by the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives), The House site is more up-to-date than the GPO or Cornell site (and also goes back further in time – to 1988) often making the House's web version of the Code the preferred choice.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' US CODE SITE". The address bar shows "http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm". The page content includes the House of Representatives logo, the title "Search the United States Code", and the "Office of the Law Revision Counsel". A search form is displayed with the following fields and options:

- Search Word(s): COMMITTEE (highlighted with a red arrow and a yellow box labeled "SEARCH BY KEYWORD")
- Search buttons: Search, Reset Form
- Restriction fields: Title (2), Section (661), Appendix (checkbox), Subtitle, Division (highlighted with a red arrow and a yellow box labeled "RESTRICT YOUR SEARCH FURTHER"), Chapter, Part, Subchapter, Subpart, Rule, Form
- Retrieval limit: Set the maximum (up to 4096) number of sections to be retrieved at a time: 100

However, with each site offering features unique from the other, the choice does not always depend solely on which is more up to date or which goes back further in time. Deciding which site to use often depends on how much information one has at hand and what type of information one hopes to gather. For instance, if one only had the "Popular" name of an Act, choosing the Cornell site would be the best bet since only Cornell offers a Popular Name Table for look-up.